

MANUFACTURING EXTENSION PARTNERSHIP

Success Stories from the Field

Sibley Machine & Foundry Corp.

Indiana MEP - Purdue Technical Assistance Program

Sibley Machine & Foundry More Globally Competitive with Help from MEP

Client Profile:

Sibley Machine & Foundry, a contract machine shop established in 1874, is currently the oldest manufacturing company in South Bend, Indiana. Sibley competes in the global marketplace using state-of-the-art equipment, such as 3-, 4- and 5-axis CNC machining centers; 3D CAD modeling and CAM software, to generate machine code. The company employs 17 people.

Situation:

Key to Sibley's ability to compete globally is how quickly they can deliver and reduce their lead times to the customer. State-of-the-art equipment used by Sibley is critical to the success of the company, and employees must be properly trained and skilled to increase the efficiency of that equipment. Sibley contacted the Indiana MEP - Purdue Technical Assistance Program (TAP), a NIST MEP network affiliate, for help.

Solution:

Training assistance from TAP, coupled with a grant from the State, proved to be just the right combination to educate and certify Sibley's entire team in the proper use of Lean manufacturing techniques. Sibley's training program included 5S/Workplace Organization, Value Stream Mapping, Quick Changeover, Total Productive Maintenance, and numerous Kaizen events. Additionally, four members of the Sibley Team are enrolled in all three modules of Training Within Industry (Job Relations, Job Instructions, and Job Methods modules).

Results:

- * Invested \$50,000 in workforce development.
- * Increased productivity.
- * Reduced lead time.
- * Increased wages.
- * Retained 17 employees.

Testimonial:

"Not only have our customers realized a benefit, but our employees now have the opportunity to maximize their earnings. Our wage structure is based on an individual's skill set, plus a shipping incentive. With the training our employees have received on Lean techniques, the shipping incentive is currently at 75 cents per hour by simply working smarter, and we have only just begun to implement the techniques we have learned. Wages will continue to follow our success."

William Voll, Jr., President

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